

IDEAS & CONTENT: Formulate a thesis about the book using one of the three topics below and plan specific examples you will use to prove your point.



TOPIC #1 The Complexity of the Wrongs of Slavery

Douglass' narrative promotes arguments far more specific and engaging than simply saying "slavery is bad." Choose one of the more specific arguments concerning slavery his narrative suggests. Form a thesis that shows that one certain claim he makes about slavery is a particularly important and convincing damnation. Then use the body paragraphs to cite and analyze specific examples from the book that demonstrate your thesis.

TOPIC #2 Levels of Persuasive Appeal

Douglass wrote his narrative for a specific audience: white, Northern abolitionists. Even so, he knew that to convince his audience would require more than a simple appeal to their intellect, moral leanings, or emotions. Douglass wrote his narrative for a specific audience: white, Northern abolitionists. Even so, he knew that to convince his audience would require more than a simple appeal to their intellect and logic (*logos*), moral leanings (*ethos*), or emotions (*pathos*). Describe how he used specific instances of *pathos* (emotional appeal), *logos* (appeal to reason and intellect), and *ethos* (an appeal to a group's ethics and moral beliefs) to broaden the scope and effectiveness of his argument. Be sure to analyze why the specific examples are appropriate and effective appeals for the points they make.



TOPIC #3 The Everyday Indignities of a Slave



Certainly, *The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* relates a personal story about how one man suffered as a slave. Still, Douglass had many opportunities, freedoms, and exceptions that the majority of slaves did not. For that reason, he often includes examples of the suffering of other slaves within his own narrative. While many of these examples reveal heinous and immoral moments of extreme cruelty, others serve to show the everyday pains, indignities, agonies, and otherwise dehumanizing and spirit-breaking occurrences. For this topic, explore how specific examples of the stories of slavery Douglass shared revealed this everyday suffering. Analyze how these "small" examples support and enhance his anti-slavery argument beyond the more memorable and atrocious examples.

ORGANIZATION: Write in traditional, five-paragraph format.

VOICE: Write in formal, academic voice (third-person, serious, etc.)

WORD CHOICE: Use exact, concise, sophisticated vocabulary and active verbs.

SYNTAX/SENTENCE FLUENCY: Vary sentence structures and openings. Be clear.

MECHANICS: Use precise punctuation, spelling, paragraphs, etc.

REMEMBER: As an in-class essay, this is a first draft and will be graded as such. Do your best, of course, but know that your IDEAS matter most! Consider, also, that this is your exam on the book—your first priority is to show you know and understand the book.